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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-05 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 AID-07 DCT-02 IO-14 /102 W
-----097846 211417Z /40

R 181722Z JUN 80
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1605
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (☒) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason

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E.O. 12065: GDS 6-17-86 (KEANE, JOHN F.) OR-P
TAGS: PINT, PE, AR
SUBJECT: (U) ARGENTINE "MONTONEROS" DETAINED

1. [REDACTED] SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO LEFTIST DAILY "EL DIARIO DE MARKA," 5 ARGENTINE CITIZENS, ALLEGED MEMBERS OF THE LEFTIST, PERONIST "MONTONERO" MOVEMENT, WERE DETAINED ON JUNE 12 AND ARE NOW BEING HELD AT AN UNKNOWN SITE. "EL DIARIO DE MARKA" CLAIMS THAT THE INCIDENT IS PART OF A JOINT ACTION BY PERUVIAN AND ARGENTINE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, ALTHOUGH ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO PERU LUIS SANCHEZ MORENO DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE INCIDENT. LEFTISTS AND ONE APRA POLITICIAN QUOTED IN "EL DIARIO" EXPRESSED CONDEMNATION OF THE OCCURRENCE. THE GOP HAS SAID NOTHING ABOUT THE MATTER THUS FAR, BUT OTHER SOURCES CONFIRM THAT AT LEAST 3 ARGENTINES HAVE BEEN DETAINED AND MAY BE DEPORTED SOON. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) BEGINNING JUNE 14, LEFTIST DAILY "EL DIARIO DE MARKA," WHICH HAS CLOSE CONNECTIONS TO EXTREMISTS IN REVOLUTIONARY MARXIST-LENINIST UDP PARTY, BEGAN HEAVY COVERAGE OF THE ALLEGED DETENTION OF 5 ARGENTINE CITIZENS. THOUGH DETAILS ARE SKETCHY AT THIS TIME, THE 5 ARGENTINES WERE
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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APPARENTLY PICKED UP IN THE LIMA SUBURB OF MIRAFLORES BY PERUVIAN SECURITY AGENTS AND TAKEN TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION.

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3. (U) THREE DAYS AFTER THE INCIDENT, ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR LUIS SANCHEZ MORENO DEPARTED LIMA FOR BUENOS AIRES. IN AN AIRPORT PRESS INTERVIEW, SANCHEZ, VISIBLY IRRITATED BY QUESTIONS FROM THE "DIARIO" REPORTER, RETORTED THAT HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE ALLEGED DETENTIONS AND SAID HIS RETURN TO BUENOS AIRES WAS A ROUTINE MATTER. HE THEN ASSERTED THAT THE "DIARIO" STORIES OF A "KIDNAPPING" ARE A FABRICATION AND PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT THE VIDELA REGIME IN THE FACE OF THE NOVEMBER OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH IS EXPECTED TO DEAL WITH THE REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ARGENTINA.

4. (U) ACCORDING TO "EL DIARIO," THE 5 MONTONEROS WERE BEING SOUGHT BY MEMBERS OF ARGENTINE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AT THE TIME OF THEIR DETENTION. "EL DIARIO" ALSO CHARGED THAT CORONEL MARTIN MARTINEZ, CHIEF OF PERUVIAN ARMY INTELLIGENCE, DIRECTED THE ACTION AND THAT GENERAL RICHTER PRADA, MINISTER OF WAR, ORDERED THE "KIDNAPPING" AND "OPENLY COLLABORATED IN ITS EXECUTION."

5. (U) THUS FAR, NO GOP OFFICIAL HAS COMMENTED ON THE ACCUSATIONS. HOWEVER, SEVERAL LEFTIST PERUVIAN POLITICIANS, INCLUDING FOCEP LEADER GENARO LEDESMA AND OTHER CONGRESSMEN-ELECT, AND AN APRA LEADER, HAVE RESPONDED WITH UNANIMOUS CONDEMNATION. BELASQUISTA ALBERTO RUIZ ELDRIDGE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE A GRAVE ERROR TO DEPORT A FOREIGNER TO HIS HOMELAND KNOWING THAT HIS LIFE WOULD BE IN JEOPARDY THERE.

6. [REDACTED] A HIGHLY-PLACED SOURCE HAS TOLD US THE FOLLOWING:
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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THE PERUVIAN SECURITY SERVICES CAME ACROSS FOUR (NOT THREE OR FIVE) ARGENTINE MONTONEROS IN THE COURSE OF AN INVESTIGATION OF AN CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS IRPA (INSTITUTO REVOLUCIONARIO PARA ACCION). IRPA IS PURPORTEDLY A TERRORIST GANG ASSOCIATED WITH THE EXTREMIST PATRIA ROJA, PSR/ML AND ONE OF THE COUNTLESS SPLINTERS OF THE MIR. THE MONTONEROS WERE PICKED UP AND FOUND TO HAVE ENTERED PERU IN EARLY APRIL ON FALSE PASSPORTS. THEIR MISSION WAS TO ADVISE IRPA AND HELP IT SET UP A MECHANISM TO CHANNEL ARMS AND OTHER SUPPORT TO MONTONERO OPERATIONS IN ARGENTINA. OUR SOURCE CLAIMS THAT THE FOUR MONTONEROS HAVE ALREADY BEEN EXPELLED ACROSS THE BORDER INTO BOLIVIA. HE ADDS

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THAT THE SECURITY SERVICES NEXT INTEND TO ROLL UP
IRPA WHICH HAS PURPORTEDLY BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR
SEVERAL TERRORIST ACTS INVOLVING THE RECENT BURING
OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING IN SAN MARTIN DE PORRAS
AND -- PERHAPS -- THE BOMBING OF THE LATE GENERAL
BELASCO'S TOMB.
SHLAUDEMAN

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